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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Paramilitary trainees in the schools and Bereitschaften are still not trained above platoon level, or in a few instances company level.
2. Tactical employment of the paramilitary police in strength above platoon level would be out of the question because no organization of HVA effectives along tactical lines has been initiated, and because the officers lack practical experience in the exercise of command over larger numbers of men. Theoretical training of officers at Kochstedt and in the various Objekte has been confined to sand-table and map problems.
3. It is believed that under combat conditions the HVA units would lack staying power, and that discipline would probably break down the moment the first shot was fired. Both non-coms and officers lack the requisite military background which should enable them to judge a tactical situation and draw the proper tactical conclusions. Consequently they would be unable to exercise tactical control over their troops under combat conditions.
4. Assuming that the impending reorganization, under plans dispatched to the Objekte on 7 July 1950, is completed by 1 October 1950, and that from October on exclusive emphasis is placed on combat training, combat efficiency could not be attained before the end of April 1951.
5. The continuing deterioration of morale is evidenced by the fact that in June the number of desertions reached an all-time high, approximately 80, which the HVA attributes to systematic subversion by "pawns of the United States" (the SPD Ostbureau). In a recent address before the SED Party group in the HVA, Heinrich Hoffmann, the chief of the HVA, asserted that the HVA is no longer dependent on the services of people who are not acting from full political conviction and who, in their working methods, refuse to abandon outdated practices. In the meantime, he said, a sufficient number of politically conscious officers has been trained to take their places.*

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6. An unknown factor which would contribute to a decision by the HVA on the feasibility of an attack on West Berlin is the Communist estimate of American capabilities. An official in the Office of Information is quoted as saying that the opinion is widely held in East German government circles that American troops will not fight under any circumstances, since their position in Berlin is so patently hopeless.
7. The new Hauptverwaltung Seepolizei moved on 7 July to premises vacated by the HVA on Kurze Strasse.

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[redacted] Hoffmann's remarks seem to foreshadow a drastic purge of the officers' corps, most of whom are lukewarm in undergoing political schooling and are unwilling to join the SED. However, there is no reason to believe that the purge will commence in the near future.

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